

# PROFESSIONAL READING

By Cdr. Peter B. Mersky, USNR (Ret.)

Davies, Peter E. *F-4 Phantoms, U.S. Navy and Marine Corps: Gray Ghosts*. Schiffer Military History, 4880 Lower Valley Rd., Atglen, PA 19310. 2000. 240 pp. Ill. \$49.95.

**W**e can always use another well-done volume on McDonnell Douglas' masterpiece, the quintessential third-generation, jack-of-all-trades jet. Featuring this publisher's large-format treatment of well-reproduced photos and authoritative text, *Gray Ghosts* highlights the F-4's naval service in war and peace.

Many new details come to light regarding the experiences of American Navy and Marine *Phantom II* crews in Vietnam, including little-known aspects of several MiG-killer engagements. I was a little disappointed, however, that despite a fine first-person description of the only all-Marine MiG kill (Marines in a Marine aircraft) in September 1972, the author quickly glosses over shore-based Marine squadrons in the final

months of the war, and ignores the fact that Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 lost an F-4J to a MiG-21.

The author includes a section on the F-4's combat cruise on board *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA 42), a lengthy, seldom-described deployment involving the aging Atlantic Fleet carrier in 1966. He also gives the first detailed account of Marine RF-4Bs, as well as stories of early operations in Southeast Asia and the cadre of F-8 *Crusader* pilots who made up the initial group of *Phantom II* drivers. There are also stories of the first MiG encounters in 1965, and the intense engagements in 1972.

The photos show many of the crews involved, as well as the markings and colors that put Navy F-4s into one of the most colorful post-Korea groups of military aircraft.

Post-Vietnam fleet service and a long career in Navy and Marine Corps air reserve units round out this look at naval F-4s.

## FLIGHTBAG

### Wanted

Author wishes to contact anyone who took color slides of Navy or Marine Corps aircraft dating from WW II through the Vietnam War, to be used in articles and books. Contact Warren Thompson, 7201 Stamford Cove, Germantown, TN 38138; 901-754-1852; migaley@attglobal.net.

### Correction to May-June 00

Page 34: the winner of the 1999 ANA Enlisted Aviation Maintenance Award was AK1(AW) Michael W. Goodwin, NAS Whidbey Island, Wash. See pages 34-35 of this issue for a complete listing of ANA awards.

### Brown Shoes History Project

A colleague and I have compiled "The Brown Shoes," which comprises 27 volumes of personal histories of the Flying Midshipmen and others designated

Naval Aviators between 1946 and 1953. About 40 volumes are planned. Since this project is so well suited to electronic publication, the Virginia Center for Digital History recommends creating a web archive from the already compiled and edited

material; however, an undertaking of this scope requires additional funding and support. If you are interested in participating in this important project, please contact me: Lou Ives, 1109 Fox Ridge, Earlysville, VA 22936, 804-978-1459; avmidn@aol.com.

## Want an Exciting Job with Extra Pay?

### Become a Flight Engineer

The Navy's P-3 *Orion* community needs motivated Sailors who are willing to become flight engineers (FE). The program is available to E-5s and above in the AE, AD, AME, AMH, AMS and AO ratings, who have been previously qualified in the P-3 as in-flight ordnancemen. There are four sites where FEs can be stationed: Brunswick, Maine; Jacksonville, Fla.; Whidbey Island, Wash.; and Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

Career Incentive Flight Pay is available, which means that if you take nonflying orders with an 8251 NEC, you can still collect flight pay. And there are travel perks, such as deployments to Iceland, Puerto Rico, Panama, Italy and Japan.

If you're interested in becoming an FE, contact your command career counselor or AECS Saylor, the FE detailee, at DSN 886-3676.



Until its disestablishment in 1996, reserve Patrol Squadron 68 flew three models of the P-3 *Orion*, including the P-3A, above. A VP-68 reunion is being held in November.

## Reunions and Symposiums

**Marine Air Command and Control System**, 19–24 SEP, Fredericksburg, VA. POC: Bill Bowling, wlbowl@erols.com; www.maccs-reunion.org.

**Wasp (CV/CVA/CVS 18)**, 1–4 OCT, Knoxville, TN. POC: Richard VanOver, 6584 Bunting Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14127-3635, 716-649-9053.

**Enterprise (CVAN/CVN 65)**, 4–8 OCT, Colorado Springs, CO. POC: Jim DuBose, POB 272381, Fort Collins, CO 80526, 970-223-2373; jdubose@uswest.net.

**U.S. Naval Institute Warfare Exposition and Symposium, "Changing the Way We Fight,"** 10–11 OCT, Virginia Beach, VA. POC: Kim Couranz, 410-295-1067; www.usni.org.

**VC-35/VA(AW)-35**, 11–14 OCT, San Diego, CA. POC: Felix Winckler, 2852 Circle Dr., Escondido, CA 92029, 760-746-6046; fandawinckler@e-mail.msn.com.

**Cabot (CVL 28)**, 11–15 OCT, Corpus Christi, TX. POC: Bill Devaney, 9937 Kemp Forest, Houston, TX 77080, 713-690-5112.

**Rudyerd Bay (CVE 81)**, 12–15 OCT, Milwaukee, WI. POC: Earl

Ewoldt, Box 175, Kandiyohi, MN 66251, 320-382-6292.

**VP-45/VP-205**, 12–15 OCT, Jacksonville, FL. POC: C. B. Caldwell, 1061 Arnold Way, Alpine, CA 91901-2721, 619-445-5072; cbc@cts.com.

**Coral Sea (CVB/CV/CVA 43)**, 13–15 OCT, Williamsburg, VA. POC: Herman Doernbach, 3144 S. 98th St., Milwaukee, WI 53227-4210, 414-321-0098; hermanwd@aol.com.

**Bogue (CVE 9)**, 15–18 OCT, Hyannis, MA. POC: Jim Priestly, 73 Neshobe Rd., Mashpee, MA 02649-4518, 508-477-4161.

**VP-64/66**, 20–21 OCT, NAS JRB Willow Grove, PA. POC: 215-443-6403; www.vp66.navy.mil.

**NAS New York**, 26–29 OCT, Virginia Beach, VA. POC: Chet Atkinson, POB 62066, Virginia Beach, VA 23466, 757-495-1338.

**VC-12/VAW-12**, 26–29 OCT, Norfolk, VA. POC: Robert Marvin, 7244 Lincoln Ave., Lockport, NY 14094, 716-434-1207; mar1207@pcom.net.

**Constellation (CV 64)**, 27–30 OCT, San Antonio, TX. POC: Ed Kassabian, 6750 Sand Point Dr. #10, Houston, TX 77074, 713-541-6200.

**Marine Air Groups 11/12/14**, 1–5 NOV, Pensacola, FL. POC: James Jordan, 1730 Lawrence 1190,

Everton, MO 65646-8281, 417-535-4945; james.m.jorgan@worldnet.att.net.

**VP-68**, 3–5 NOV, Clinton, MD. POC: Jim Rozycki, 2414 Rolling Farms Rd., Glenshaw, PA 15116, 412-487-5854; rozyckijim@aol.com; www.vp68.org.

**VP/VPB 114**, 5–7 NOV, Charleston, SC. POC: Ray DeYoung, 98 Kates Path, Yarmouthport, MA 02675, 508-362-3511.

**PBY Catalina Intl. Assoc.**, 8–12 NOV, Branson, MO. POC: James Thompson, 1510 Kabel Dr., New Orleans, LA 70131-3632, 504-392-1227.

**Philippine Sea (CV 47)**, 9–12 NOV, Clearwater, FL. POC: Chuck Davis, POB 8020, Port Charlotte, FL 33949-8020, 941-743-6827; philsea@afcon.net.

**VP-24**, 10–12 NOV, Pensacola, FL. POC: Jack Claugherty, 1830 Mate Cir., Cantonment, FL 32533, 850-937-0853; jclaughert@aol.com.

**VP-47**, 10–12 NOV, Pensacola, FL. POC: Chuck Petri, 2007 East Park Dr., Richardson, TX 75081-5429, 972-690-3391; cpetri@home.com.

**Tripoli (CVE 64)**, 15–19 NOV, New Orleans, LA. POC: Luther Royds, 1019 Gorman St., Philadelphia, PA 19116-3709; 215-673-7742.